

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06543 061840Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 061640Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 947

S E C R E T ROME 6543

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD), IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, VI: SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED
BY THE US

REF: (A) STATE 103235; (B) ROME 6530

DUDOS:

1. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD EXPRESS TO PRIME MINISTER MORO AND FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE RESPONSIBLE AND PROGRESSIVE ITALIAN ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS GENERALLY, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN SOLIDARITY. WE COUNT ON AND HAVE BENEFITTED FROM ITALIAN SUPPORT IN THE UNITED NATIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES. WE VIEW WITH PLEASURE ITALY'S CONTINUING LOYALTY TO NATO AT A TIME WHEN THE PENINSULA HAS A GROWING STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND ARE PLEASED THAT ITALY HAS RATIFIED THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. WE APPLAUD ITALY'S COURAGE AND SUCCESS IN PUTTING ITS ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER DESPITE HER HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON HIGH-PRICED IMPORTED OIL.

MUTUAL ASSESSMENTS:

2. WE SHOULD SHARE WITH THE ITALIANS OUR VIEWS, AND SOLICIT THEIRS, ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF NATO, EMPHASIZING OUR CONCERNS AND OUR REMEDIAL EFFORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, OUR DETERMINATION TO PURSUE DETENTE FROM A STRONG, CAUTIOUS AND
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COHESIVE NATO POSITION, AND OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE

MUTUAL DEFENSE.

US CONCERNS:

3. HAVING CONGRATULATED ITALY ON ITS RESPONSIBLE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ROLES AND POLICIES, AND HAVING SHARED OUR FRANK ASSESSMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL TROUBLE SPOTS, WE SHOULD HAVE NO HESITATION ABOUT BRINGING TO ITALIAN ATTENTION OUR CONCERNS, AS CITED IN THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES PAPER (REF B) REGARDING (A) THE DANGERS OF TOYING WITH THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" IN ITALY, (B) THE NEED FOR OUR NATO PARTNERS TO BE MORE OPENLY SUPPORTIVE OF US PEACE (AND RELATED) INITIATIVES, AND (C) THE DANGERS OF NATO-COUNTRY PASSIVITY IN A SITUATION OF INTERNATIONAL IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE BEING WAGED UNDER THE COVER OF DETENTE, E.G., IN PORTUGAL. WE LOOK NOT ONLY TO ITALY BUT ALL OUR NATO PARTNERS, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES IN ALL AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN.

THE SECRETARY:

4. MAY WISH TO EXPRESS TO THE FOREIGN OR PRIME MINISTER OUR HOPE THAT THE GOI WILL SOON ACT TO AMEND THE BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT (BIA) TO REGULARIZE THE STATUS OF OUR FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL AT LA MADDELENA, SARDINIA, IN SUPPORT OF US/NATO SUBMARINE SURVEILLANCE OF THE SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON. LACKING THAT LEGAL BASIS OUR ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE AT LA MADDALENA REMAIN SUBJECT TO THE VAGARIES OF LOCAL POLITICAL POLEMICS AND HINDERS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE OPERATIONAL MISSION. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME06543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750158-1007
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750577/aaaacsle.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 103235, 75 ROME 6530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, VI: SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED BY THE US
TAGS: OVIP, IT, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006